

INQUIRER - 3/21/71

Phones Tapped, Senator Claims

DENVER (AP).—Sen. Joseph M. Montoya says telephone conversations of some Senate Democrats have been monitored by the Justice Department.

"What has come to light," the New Mexico Democrat said in an interview here, "indicates that only Democrats were monitored, but I'm also concerned that even Republicans were monitored."

"Although we have no proof in that respect, we do have proof that Democrats have been monitored."

He did not offer evidence for his charge and did not name the senators involved.

A Justice Department official in Washington denied the charges.

When asked if he believed the Justice Department was tapping senator's private telephone lines, Montoya replied: "Certainly."